

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROGELIO COVARRUBIAS,

Petitioner,

v.

SETH HATTON,

Respondent.

Case No. [16-cv-01230-JCS](#) (PR)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE;  
INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERK**

Dkt. No. 3

**INTRODUCTION**

Petitioner seeks federal habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 from his jailors' validation of him as a gang associate.<sup>1</sup> The petition for such relief is now before the Court for review pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2243 and Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases.

Respondent shall file a response to the petition on or before August 22, 2016.

**BACKGROUND**

According to the petition, in 2008, petitioner's jailors at Wasco State Prison validated him as an associate of the Mexican Mafia prison gang. He did not become aware of this fact, he asserts, until he returned to prison in 2013, whereupon his jailors at the Correctional Training Facility validated him as an associate of the Security Threat Group, another prison gang. He asserts that his validation deprives him from earning time credits and it therefore affects the duration of his confinement.

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<sup>1</sup> Petitioner consented to magistrate judge jurisdiction. (Pet. at 7.) The magistrate judge, then, has jurisdiction to issue this order, even though respondents have not been served or consented to magistrate judge jurisdiction. *See Neals v. Norwood*, 59 F.3d 530, 532 (5th Cir. 1995).

**DISCUSSION**

This Court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). A district court considering an application for a writ of habeas corpus shall “award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243. Summary dismissal is appropriate only where the allegations in the petition are vague or conclusory, palpably incredible, or patently frivolous or false. *See Hendricks v. Vasquez*, 908 F.2d 490, 491 (9th Cir. 1990).


As grounds for federal habeas relief, petitioner claims that his jailors violated his right to due process when they validated him as a gang associate. When liberally construed, this claim is cognizable in a federal habeas corpus action.

**CONCLUSION**

1. The Clerk shall serve a copy of this order, the petition and all attachments thereto, and a Magistrate Judge jurisdiction consent or declination to consent form on respondent and respondent’s counsel, the Attorney General for the State of California. The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on petitioner.

2. Respondent shall file with the Court and serve on petitioner, within ninety (90) days of the date this order is filed, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted based on petitioner’s cognizable claims. Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the state trial record that previously have been transcribed and that are relevant to a determination of the issues presented by the petition.

3. If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with the Court and serving it on respondent’s counsel within thirty (30) days of the date the answer is filed.

  
JOSEPH C. SPERO  
Chief Magistrate Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROGELIO COVARRUBIAS,  
Plaintiff,

v.

SETH HATTON,  
Defendant.

Case No. [16-cv-01230-JCS](#)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on May 31, 2016, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Rogelio Covarrubias ID: ID: AN-7447  
Correctional Training Facility  
P.O. Box 689  
Soledad, CA 93960

Dated: May 31, 2016

Susan Y. Soong  
Clerk, United States District Court

By: Karen L. Hom  
Karen Hom, Deputy Clerk to the  
Honorable JOSEPH C. SPERO

United States District Court  
Northern District of California